OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	Typestics, note proceed, or company, to complete all nome.
historic name Wiltrout, Maria and Franklin, Poly	gonal Barn
other names/site number Alfred Barn	
2. Location	
street & number 0209 County Road 16	NZAnot for publication
city or town Corunna	[X] vicinity
stateIndiana code IN county DeKal	b code 033 zip code 46730
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation stand Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for act Signature of certifying official/Title Date Indiana Department of Natural Resources State of Federal agency and bureau	dards for registering properties in the National Register of set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property that this property be considered significant
In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Recomments.)	egister criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is:  I entered in the National Register.  I See continuation sheet.	of the Keeper Date of Action
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	•
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number7	Page1	Wiltrout Polygonal	Barn	DeKalb Co	). <b>,</b>	IN
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The Maria and Franklin Wiltrout Polygonal Barn, located in rural DeKalb County, near Corunna, Indiana, is one of three fourteen-sided barns left in Indiana (six were built). The barn is surrounded by woods and fields on the north and east and cultivated fields to the west. The farmhouse, a 1911 Montgomery Ward design, is accompanied by a garage and shed. The house, garage, and shed are located south of the barn. Only the barn is included in this nomination. Resting atop a small rise, this well-preserved structure retains much integrity and meets the standards for registration established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana".

The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is a fourteen-sided, two story, wood frame structure dating from 1910. It is sixty feet in width, and has a sectional, two-pitch gambrel-like roof crowned by a fourteen-sided, louver-vented cupola. The foundation is poured concrete, and interior floors are of bare earth.

The roof covering of the barn was originally wood shingle, but now the barn roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, an alteration which minimally detracts from the barn's integrity. There is a slight overhang to the eaves, revealing the exposed rafters. Wall surfaces are covered in horizontal wood siding painted red with 1" X 4" white cornerboards enframing each wall section.

The main facade (east elevation-photo 1) reveals the simple yet appealing geometry of the barn. Centered on this elevation are wide sliding doors made of diagonal planking mounted on overhead tracks. Each door is divided into six panels by 1" X 4" boards, with the top two sections of each door having a six-light window. The windows serve to admit more work light to the interior, much as transoms would to a house, while the door panel treatment is purely decorative.

Continuing around the barn counter-clockwise, the next face contains a six-light window with plain board surrounds, a treatment typical to the barn. Next is a human-sized door with adjacent window, then a window, followed by another window and human-sized door. The seventh side contains a window unit as does the eighth. The

Wiltrout	Polygonal	Barn

Name of Property

DeKalb	Co.,	IN
County and	State	

5. Classification  Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res	ources within Propert	y e count )
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Contributing	Noncontributing	o ocura.,
☐ private ☐ public-local	以 building(s) ☐ district	1	•	buildings
☐ public-State	□ site	0		
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure ☐ object	0		sites
		-		structures
		0	_	objects
		1	0	Total
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of con in the National	tributing resources pr Register	eviously listed
Round and Polygonal	Barns of Indiana	0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from		
AGRICULTURE: animal	facility	AGRICULTURE:	storage	
Addition to the trace of the tr				
	-			
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)	ı
OTHER: fourteen-side	d barn	foundationCONC	RETE	
	,	walls W00E	: weatherboard	
		roofASPF	ALT	
		Onioi		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Wiltrout	Polygonal	Barn
Name of Prop	erty	

Record # \_\_\_\_

DeKalb Co., IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	'Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) AGRICULTURE
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1910-1936
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1910
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Cincificant Paran
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
☐ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
$\square$ F a commemorative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.	Reynolds, Frank
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
<b>Bibilography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on on	e or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	☐ State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
☐ previously listed in the National Register ☐ previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government
Register	☐ University
designated a National Historic Landmark	X) Other
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Name of repository: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana
□ recorded by Historic American Engineering	Toundation of Indiana

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Name of Property	DeKalb Co., IN
· · ·	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 6 6 5 1 6 7 0 4 5 9 2 0 4 0  Zone Easting Northing 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleJerry_McMahan	
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana	date November 11, 1991
street & number <u>340 West Michigan Street</u>	telephone <u>(317)</u> 639-4534
city or town <u>Indianapolis</u> st	ate IN zip code 46202
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the proper	ty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large	ge acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the property	у.
Additional Items Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name William and Dorothy Alfred	
street & number 0209 CR 16	telephone
sity or town <u>Corunna</u> sta	ateIN zip code 46730

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

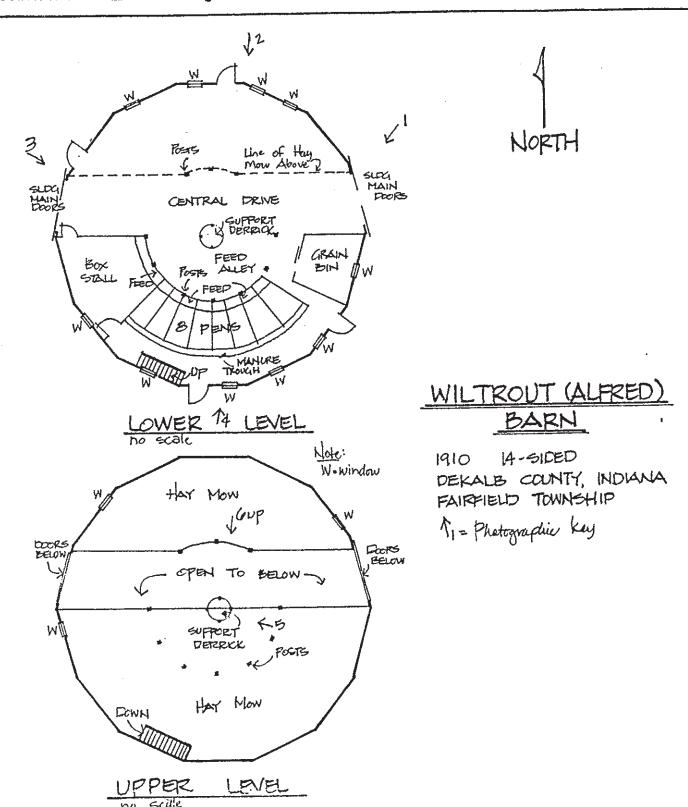
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_7\_\_ Page \_\_2\_\_\_

Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7	Page3	Wiltrout	Polygonal	Barn	DeKalb (	Co.,	ΙN
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ninth face, located on the west side of the barn contains another set of the decorative yet functional doors found on the east side, identical in size, configuration and location. The tenth face has another human-sized door with adjacent window, followed by a window unit on the eleventh, a window and human-sized door, a pair of windows on the thirteenth and finally, no lower level openings on the fourteenth. The only upper level window is located on the fourteenth or northeast side of the barn, adding to the light admitted by the main doors and the cupola. For reference, Photo 2 depicts sides two through seven, Photo 3 shows sides five through nine and Photo 4 reveals sides ten through fourteen.

The interior of the barn (see floor plan) is efficiently arranged for ease in handling and housing farm animals. A "central" drive cuts through the structure from east to west, with the drive's width beginning at the center line of the building and proceeding north, instead of the width being centered on the barn's midpoint. On the north side of the drive is a large open space that is partially defined by three support posts near the barn's center. These posts eventually help to brace the roof. On the south side of the drive, the central support derrick is a prominent feature that is surrounded by a feed alley, defined by more support posts. The feed alley posts correspond to the ones on the opposite side and in concert with the derrick provide the stabilizing factor for the roof. Arranged radially around the feed alley are, moving from west to east, a large box stall, eight pens with manure troughs near the outer walls and a grain bin. Further, the pens and box stalls have feed troughs located toward the center of the barn so that they can be filled from the feed alley. A permanent staircase is located inside the south door and ascends to the upper level. Finally, the balloon frame construction of the walls is capped by the inwardly radiating floor joists of the upper level that are intermediately braced by the inner posts and the central derrick.

The upper level, reached by the staircase, is divided into a northern and a southern hay mow, separated by the open space to the central drive. The north hay mow is open and defined at the edge by the support posts that rise from the lower level and terminate at the roof's laminated beam (Photo 5). The south hay mow, larger than the one on the north, also has the ring of posts found on the lower level in addition to the central derrick support system, with the derrick bracing the upper roof section and cupola (Photo 6). Ingeniously, the roof sections, framed by inwardly radiating stick lumber, are braced by a series of laminated beams (at the juncture of the two roof pitches), posts and the derrick.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number7 Page4	Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN
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The historic fabric of the Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is very well preserved, having no significant changes to the original structure. As such, the barn is a striking reminder of early twentieth century agricultural practices in Indiana.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number -	8	Page5	Wiltrout	Polygonal	Barn	DeKa1b	Co.,	IN
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The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn, located in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, Indiana, is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of agriculture in Indiana (as illustrated through the development of round and polygonal barnssee historic context "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana"). The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is unusual within the defined context for its fourteen-sided plan. Also, the barn demonstrates how some farmers became interested in central plan barns through advertising and mail-order catalogs.

The original owners of the barn were Maria and Franklin Wiltrout who likely purchased the barn as a kit from the Chicago House Wrecking Company, 35th and Iron Streets, Chicago. The Chicago House Wrecking Company placed an advertisement in The Indiana Farmer of January 6, 1912, page 24. The firm described Round Barn Design No. 206 as follows:

Our price for the material to build this barn, \$995. Size, 60ft. in diameter and 16 ft. high to plate. Has 14 sides, each side 14 ft. A 16 ft. silo in the middle, same being 36 ft. high and will hold 160 tons of silage. Hay capacity, 65 tons. Will accommodate 100 head of cattle. The many and excellent features offered by this construction, the high grade materials furnished by us, and our extremely low price makes this barn a bargain worthy of thorough investigation. 1

Barn Design No. 206 matches the Wiltrout Barn closely, with the exception of the silo. Frank Reynolds designed No. 206, making him also the designer of the Wiltrout Barn. Farm journals of this period were widely circulated and well trusted by farmers, and many of these periodicals approved of central-plan structures.

### United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8	Page 6	Wiltrout Polygonal	Barn DeKalb Co., IN
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Additionally, the fine attention to details on this barn found in the corner boards, door design and cupola lend themselves to the quality of a kit and not that of a local craftsman. Historically, the lower level would have stored farm animals and the upper level would have been devoted to the storage of hay and straw.

The Wiltrout family retained ownership of the property for many years with Franklin and Maria eventually passing the property to their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce. The Bruce family owned the farm until they sold it to Agnes and Harry Hutley, who in turn sold it to Robert Todd in 1981. The current owners, William and Dorothy Alfred, purchased the property from Mr. Todd in 1991. The Alfreds are now in the process of restoring the early-twentieth century American Four Square farmhouse, which itself is probably a kit home. The Alfreds have reason to believe that the house was purchased as a kit from Montgomery Wards.<sup>2</sup>

In Indiana, six of the 219 round and polygonal barns built were fourteen-sided. These barns, in addition to the Wiltrout (Alfred) barn, were built in Decatur County's Salt Creek Township (1913, razed), Franklin County's Ray Township (1915, razed), Huntington County's Polk Township (1907-08, extant), Montgomery County's Union Township (1912-13, extant) and Washington County's Pierce Township (1906, razed). Therefore, of the six built, only three survive today.

The Wiltrout (Alfred) barn is an unusual and unique example of a polygonal barn, being one of the three remaining fourteen-sided examples in Indiana. Interestingly, the six fourteen-sided barns were all built after 1905 when the patent was issued to Littleton, McNamee and Duncan, possibly as a way to skirt the patent rights of the designers. The barn has the essential physical features that it possessed at the time of its period of significance, from 1910 to the mid 1930s. The building has aged very gracefully and has not been significantly altered since its erection in 1910, thus standing as a landmark of the development of agriculture in Indiana.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8	Page7	Wiltrout Polygonal	Barn DeKalb Co., IN
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#### **ENDNOTES**

- 1. The Indiana Farmer, 6 January 1912, p. 24.
- 2. Dorothy Alfred, owner of the Wiltrout (Alfred) barn, Corunna, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 25 October 1991.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alfred, Dorothy. Owner of the Wiltrout (Alfred) Barn, Corunna, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 25 October 1991.
- Hanou, John. Research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- The Indiana Farmer. 6 January 1912, p. 24.
- Intensive architectural survey of Indiana's round and polygonal barns, conducted June to August 1991, conducted by Jerry McMahan, areawide survey of round and polygonal architectural and historical resources.
- Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles, The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number <u>10</u>	Page9	Wiltrout	Polygonal	Barn	DeKa1b	Co	ΙN
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10. Geographical Data-continued.

Verbal Boundary Description

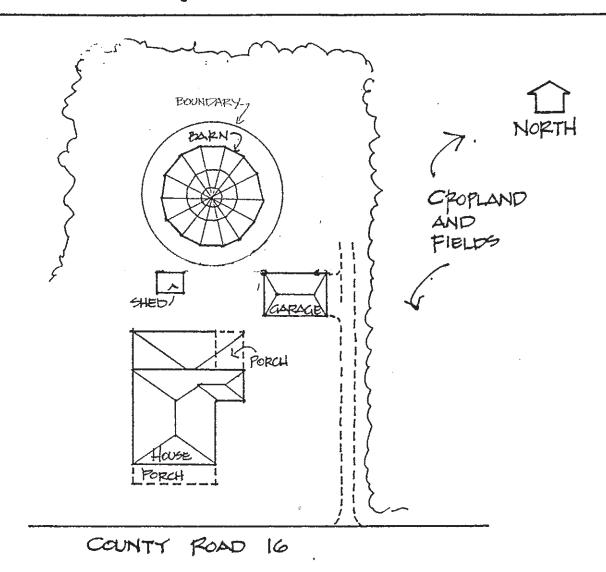
The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is located in the SE of Section 19, T35N-R13E of Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. Referring to the site plan, the boundary is a circular parcel eighty feet (80') in diameter, with the center of the circle corresponding to the center of the Wiltrout Polygonal Barn (the barn being 60' in "diameter").

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the nominated resource. At a later date other buildings on the farm may be listed as a farmstead if the grouping is found to meet the National Register criteria.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10



# WILTROUT (ALFRED) BARN SITE PLAN NO SCALE

1910 14-51DED
DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA
FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

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